



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT  
OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

## New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

Manual:	CP&P	Child Protection & Permanency	Effective Date:
Volume:	IV	Out-of-Home Placement	
Chapter:	A	General Placement Considerations	1-26-2016
Subchapter:	4	Placement Activities	
Issuance:	400	<b>Youth Participation in Extracurricular, Enrichment, Cultural and Social Activities</b>	

### Purpose:

This issuance establishes the policy and procedures to authorize caretakers to make decisions regarding the participation of youth in out of home placement in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities consistent with a reasonable and prudent parent standard established in federal law.

### Authority:

- The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, PL 113-183

### Policy:

#### **A) Caretakers Authorized to Make Decisions Regarding Youth Participation in Activities**

Resource parents and institutional caretakers are exclusively authorized to approve or disapprove the participation of a child in his or her care's participation in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural or social activities consistent with a reasonable and prudent parent standard.

“Reasonable and prudent parent” means the standard of care characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety and best interests of a child while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child. Factors supporting a determination of a reasonable and prudent parent to allow a child in their care to participate in

extracurricular, enrichment, cultural or social activities shall include, but not be limited to, acts or omissions that:

- Encourage the child's formation of healthy, age appropriate social relationships and bonds;
- Permit the child's participation in age appropriate social activities and events;
- Allow the child to exercise age appropriate autonomy and decision making authority within reasonable bounds;
- Allow the child to maintain an age appropriate degree of personal privacy; and
- Refrain from imposing upon the child's conduct any unreasonable burden not generally imposed upon children of the same age and maturity level.

#### **B) Parent and Agency Consultation Not Required**

Unless expressly directed by written direction from CP&P or court order, resource parents and caretakers shall not be required to consult or obtain agreement from a child's parent or the division when exercising decision making authorities under this policy.

#### **C) Preservation of Child's Rights**

This policy shall not permit any resource parent or caretaker to unreasonably deny a child's participation in religious services or activities.

#### **D) No Entitlement to Participation**

This policy does not entitle any child in out of home placement to participate in any particular extracurricular, enrichment, cultural or social activity. Youth are encouraged to raise concerns about the granting or refusal of permissions to their assigned worker, but workers shall have no authority, and shall not represent the existence of any authority, to override or veto a caretaker decision.